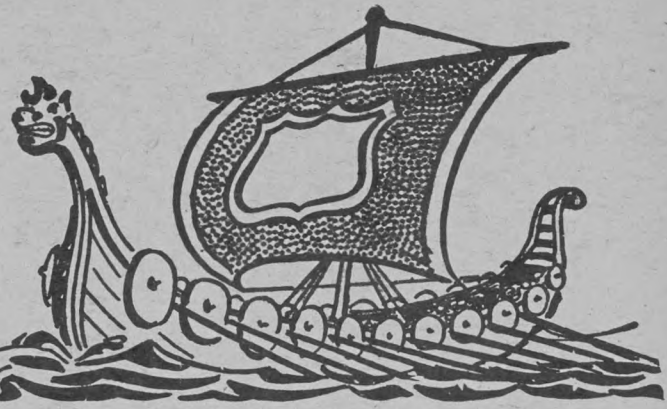




# Scandinavian Centre News



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VOL. 8 NO. 6

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SIX PAGES

JUNE 1968

## ELECTION JUNE 25th VOTE

### POLITICAL DEBATE ON — AGAIN

Prime Minister Trudeau and Conservative Leader Stanfield accepted the latest proposal for a nationally-televised debate June 9.

Spokesmen for the leaders announced the acceptance to the proposed debate that would also include NDP Leader Douglas and Credit-iste Leader Real Caouette.

An NDP spokesman, Clifford Scotton, said his party agrees to the proposal in principle. There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Caouette.

The latest CBC-CTV proposal does not include any representative of the Social Credit party which had four MP's in the commons at the time of dissolution.

Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Stanfield and Mr. Douglas would be present for the full two hours of the telecast. Mr. Caouette would join them for the last half-hour.

### HANS HUSEBY HALE AND HEARTY AT 90

HOLDEN — Mr. Hans Husby is still in hale and hardy on his 90th birthday March 12, and he really looks more like 60.

Born in Norway in 1878, he came to Omaha, Neb. U.S.A. at the age of 25, where he worked for a famous circus, "The Ringling Brothers." At that time it was the biggest circus in the world. Then he went to Aberdeen, South Dakota, for a year.

In 1903 he came to Canada, stopping in Alberta at Wetaskiwin and Earling. He settled on a homestead 14 miles south of Holden and has remained there farming a few patches of land. Mr. Huseby is still an active member of the Holden Drainage Board, a position he has held for 45 years.

He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church and belongs to the Scandinavian Centre in Edmonton.

Mr. Huseby has made eight trips to his home land of Norway since 1903. The first trip was in 1914 to attend the World Fair; also four trips in the last four years to 1968. Last year he took a trip to Expo, joining a group on a special train to promote Edmonton Days at Fort Edmonton. He was a special Klondike guest and was tagged with a big rosette and ribbon.

Mr. Huseby had a family of two sons and three daughters. His wife and one son Henry passed away several years ago.

I asked Mr. Huseby "what do you do" to reach 90 and be hale and hearty. Mr. Huseby replied, cont'd. on page 5

### MRS. J. COUVES QUEEN OF NORDURLJOS

One of the major events of the year took place on May 5th when the ceremony of the crowning of the new Fjallkona was staged in the Viking Room of the Scandinavian Centre.

As the audience took their seats, the president, Al Arnason, accompanied by the retiring Fjallkona, Mrs. Ninna Campbell, entered the room, followed in turn by miniature flag bearers, dainty little flower girls, carrying their spring flowers in baskets, junior princesses, and the sweet little crown bearer, Miss Carla Thorvaldson, holding aloft a satin white cushion on which reposed the golden crown. As they took their places on the dais, the newly appointed Fjallkona, Mrs. Jo Couves, entered on the arm of her escort, Mr. Henry Sumarlidason, who led her to the seat of honor.

A program, arranged by Mrs. Ruth MacNaughton then ensued, and which included a review of her year in office by Mrs. Ninna Campbell; talks on Iceland by Dr. Jon Thorhallson, a tribute to the memory of a beloved guide and teacher, the late Prof. Thorvaldur Thorvaldson, of the University of Saskatchewan, by Dr. Marino Kristjanson; solos by Mrs. Viola Wallbank, and Mrs. Doreen Joachim; presentations to the retiring Fjallkona, by Mrs. Margaret Cameron; the crowning ceremony, with tributes to the new Maid of the Mountains, by four young boys, and the warm-hearted and dignified acceptance speech by Mrs. Jo Couves. Interspersed throughout the ceremony were lovely choral offerings by the Icelandic Society's Saga Singers, under the baton of Mrs. Della Roland, who accompanied on the piano, assisted by Miss Leoni Oddson.

An extra feature of the program was the appointment by the Chapter of five new Honorary Life members in the persons of Mrs. Josie Janssen, of Red Deer; Mrs. Margaret McKeon, of Edmonton; Mrs. Bergros Palsson, of Dawson Creek, B.C.; Mrs. Bertha Key of Coombs, B.C.; and Mr. Arni B. Bardal, of Innisfail. Corsages were pinned on three who were able to be present, and a life-membership decorative document was presented by Mr. Arnason to each recipient. Mrs. McKeon, in turn, honored the society with a gift of Icelandic books, from the library of her late mother, Mrs. Jonina Johnson, in loving memory. Then, Mr. Arni Bardal spoke of the personal friendship he had enjoyed with the late and highly honored poet, Mr. Stephan G. Stephansson, of Markerville, mentioning many

anecdotes that are little known of the man who, by his writings, aroused a love of his parental homeland and of his adopted, beloved Alberta. By his outstanding ability in the use of the Icelandic language, he is rated as one of the greatest in the long history of poetry in Iceland, and through the language barrier, Canadians will not be able to comprehend the extent of his influence though he embraced the new adopted home with strong affection. As he spoke, Mr. Bardal took advantage of the opportunity to present for safe keeping to the Edmonton Icelandic Society, a painting of the quaint cottage where the poet lived and labored as an early pioneer, and clearly showing the den where his writings took shape. The painting is inscribed with engraved lettering, in memory of the revered man, and of his daughter, Steffany, who later became Mrs. Arni B. Bardal. This painting is to be held in trust until a suitable place for its hanging is found. Mr. Arnason suitably thanked Mr. Bardal for this his centennial one-man project and promised co-operation in selecting a permanent place. Mrs. Doris Eliuk, of Red Deer, the artist who painted the picture, on location, in Markerville, was present in the audience, and called to the platform received a corsage, and much well-merited applause from all.

The ceremony being over, guests were invited to partake of dainty refreshments, served from a decorative coffee table adorned with flowers, candles and delicious food.

### NEW GUIDE BOOK

A new comprehensive guide book to Alberta's 44 provincial parks has been issued by the Alberta Government Department of Lands and Forests. The 28-page book devotes a paragraph to each of the parks, outlining the facilities and activities in which the visitor may share.

Alberta's parks are found in almost every part of the province and offer many things, from badlands exploring to mountain climbing and from boating, swimming, fishing and other active recreational activities to quiet retreats in the parklands and mountain fastness where one may pitch a tent or park a trailer and just "get away from it all".

The book is available free upon request from the Provincial Parks Division, Department of Lands and Forests, Natural Resources Building, Edmonton.

### VASA LODGE SKANDIA

Regular monthly meeting of Vasa Lodge Skandia was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Peter Johnson in the Nordic Room of the Scandinavian Centre.

Members reported sick were: Earl Erickson, Peter Johnson, Aloy Lindén, Helga Johnson, Charlotte Samuelson, Ella Skoog, Shirley Pearson, Minnie Nelson, Grace Maxwell, and Martha Dahl.

The Vahlborg's Committee reported poor attendance for the dance held April 27. Thanks to Doreen Nyroos, Pia St. Cyr, and Vivianne Ohlsson for helping with the decorations, and Ray Nyroos for helping with the bar.

A donation from Vice-Consul, Sigurd Franzen, of two table flag stands complete with Canadian and Swedish flags was accepted with thanks by the Lodge and the Women's Auxiliary.

Vasa Park has been offered as the site for the annual Scandinavian Centre Picnic to be held in July.

A Children's Day will be held at the Lake this year in lieu of Camp Week. The time and date will be decided later.

A vote of thanks, and wishes for success were extended to Doris Gerneroy who has resigned her post as Secretary. Doris is leaving the city.

Greetings were brought by Evelyn Johnson from Roy and Dorothy Ekman, and Mons and Margaret Eliasson in British Columbia.

Two new members were initiated into the order, Soren and Aune Sorensen.

A lovely lunch was served by May Rushton, Linnea Christensen, Vera Hyde, and Ida Franzen.

Following coffee, bingo was played under the direction of Don and Evelyn Johnson.

The next meeting will be held Saturday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Club House at Vasa Park. The Sports Club will host the lunch and dance, music by Helge Erickson.

Sunday, June 2, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at the lake will offer a taste sensation of pit barbecued wild game, under chefs Charles Rautio, and Elsie Comin. Following that, at 2:00 p.m., races and games for all ages under the direction of Rude Sund.

On Sunday, June 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., a Desert Party will be held at Vasa Park. Hostess' are Hansine Pierre, and Linnea Lodge.

Midsummer celebrations will be held at the Lake in the form of a dance on June 22, hosted by Earl and Florence Erickson.

### COFFEE PARTY

On Tuesday, April 23, a social evening was held in the Viking Room of the Scandinavian Centre, in honor of Councilor General Stig Engfelt and Mrs. Engfelt who were on tour through Western Canada. Vice Consul Sigurd Franzen, Mrs. Eric Pierre, and Mr. Lennart Petersson received the visitors at the door. Mrs. Emil Skarin, Mrs. Sigurd Franzen, Mrs. Lars Erickson, and Mrs. A. Backstrom poured coffee. Several ladies in Swedish costume served a wonderful lunch which was donated by the Vasa Lodge Skandia Women's Auxiliary, and the North Star Club. Mrs. Lillian Boyer, Mrs. Dorothea Johnson, Miss Ellen Larson, and Mr. Helge Erickson played some enjoyable music before films on Stockholm and ceramics were shown by the Engfeldts. The Councilor General gave a brief speech, and Mr. Lennart Petersson, on behalf of the lodge, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Engfelt for their visit.

Vasa Lodge Skandia would like to thank everyone who helped make this evening so enjoyable.

### VASA GLIMPSES

A Surprise Party, which turned out to be a surprise to more people than Winnie Pearson, was held Saturday, April 20, at her son Tom's home. In honor of Winnie's fiftieth birthday, she was presented with a Black Alaska Diamond ring and a pair of earrings. Gertie Holmgren composed an amusing resumé of the highlights in Winnie's life. Pot luck supper wound up the festivities for the evening.

Sheila Ogren, Helga Johnson, and Rene Hokanson have all spent some time in the hospital recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hanson have visited their son, Bob in Winnipeg.

Roger and Joanne Ogren of Williams Lake, B.C., have had Roger's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Ogren as guests.

Nils and Vivianne Ohlsson and family spent a few days with Rune and Lois Anderson in Saskatoon.

Margaret Eliasson was in town for the workshop held at Vasa Park.



## SPLINTERS from the BOARD

Mrs. Peggy Norgaard has been editor of this paper since November 1965 and has now decided to relinquish the job. She has been very busy helping her husband with his business and has found it difficult to look after the paper as well. Her capable and efficient manner in getting out the paper was very much appreciated. Under her editorship the paper flourished and provided news of interest. We now bid her farewell and good luck.

Mrs. Shirley Thorvaldson will assume the editors' duties and we bid her hail and welcome.

A very successful flight party for flight 23 to Oslo, May 30, was held in the Viking Room on April 30th. Mr. Otto Von Rosen from Scandinavian Airlines was present, also representatives from Pacific Western Airlines. Films on Scandinavia and PWA were shown to approximately 135 people after which lunch was

served. Bon voyage and a happy holiday to the members of flight 23.

The board is now busily engaged in planning the 1969 charter flights. It has been suggested that one of the 1970 flights go to Japan, so Scandinavians would have an opportunity to take in Expo 70.

There will be no Scandinavian Booth at the Klondike Days Exhibition this year owing to the high cost of space and the difficulty in obtaining help. Space is being reserved for a booth in 1969. The old booth buildings will be sold.

A part-time secretary is being considered for the Centre.

The annual Scandinavian Picnic will be held at Vasa Park, at Pigeon Lake on July 14th.

G C. Thorvaldson,  
Director Scandinavian News.

## BUFORD NEWS

At our April meeting Douglas and Jean Neis were initiated and welcomed into our Lodge.

\*\*\*

Avis, Clair, Ellen, Ray, Vernon and Goody Pearson spent a Sunday at Bruce, guests of Mrs. M. Benson and the Erickson families.

\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. E. Wold spent a Sunday at Eckville visiting the Norman Anderson's (Mrs. Wold's sister).

\*\*\*

The Ladouceurs attended a Royal Purple meeting at Seba Beach one Saturday.

\*\*\*

Arthur and Ronald Erickson spent a week-end visiting the Modin and Pearson families. They also took in our annual Smorgasbord.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. Cunch on the birth of a baby girl on April 23 in the Leduc Hospital. Proud grandparents are Wanda and Albin Markstedt.

\*\*\*

Lily French of Hanna and Florence Erickson and Rosella Forsberg of Edmonton spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting the Gust Modin, Berthe Pearson, Arnold Eklund and George Modin families.

\*\*\*

Alf and Helga Hoyem had their son Eldon and family of Peace River visit them.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Mr. Andrew Beck who celebrated his 81st birthday recently.

\*\*\*

Mrs. Doris Modin spent a few days in the University Hospital.

\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. E. Lunde enjoyed a nice holiday in B.C.

\*\*\*

On April 20th D. M. Floyd Modin and his wife, Peggy and our Lodge

chairman, Clair Pearson and his wife, Avis, brought congratulatory greetings from our Lodge when they attended Norden Lodge 40th Anniversary celebration, at Meeting Creek. The banquet, program and social evening were most appropriate and thoroughly enjoyed.

\*\*\*

A coffee party was held in Wetaskiwin, hosted by Nordstjarnan Lodge of Falun on April 23rd for the Councillor General to Canada Mr. Stig Engfeld and his wife. Our D.M. and chairman of our Lodge, along with several members from our Lodge (Avie Pearson, Goody and Vernon Pearson, Hilda and Gust Modin and Axel Modin) attended this delightful affair enjoying the films Mr. Engfeld showed and the social evening which followed.

\*\*\*

Our Annual Smorgasbord held on April 26th in the Calmar Hall was a success drawing a large crowd from far and near. We were pleased to see Brothers and Sisters from the Scandia Meeting Creek and Falun Lodges attend. A special thanks is extended to the various committees for their efforts and especially to the Program Committee. They really put on a most entertaining program.

\*\*\*

Two teams of bowlers from our Lodge attended the annual Provincial Bowling Tournament of the Alberta Vasa Lodges at Lethbridge on May 5th. No prizes were won but they enjoyed the "Do" immensely. A vote of thanks is extended to the Lethbridge Lodge for a wonderful day of bowling and the banquet and social which followed. Congratulations to the Falun team which won the Provincial Trophy.

\*\*\*

On the sick list have been Vernon, Goody and Karen Pearson.

## SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT

### COMING EVENTS

June 22 — St. Hans Fest Picnic  
July 20 — Klondike Dance

### SICK REPORT

There is an elderly Norwegian lady, Nora Bjorkstrom, at the University Hospital (Station 44) who would enjoy company. She speaks no language but Norwegian and has no friends or relatives living in Edmonton.

Please visit her if you speak Norwegian. It would be much appreciated.

\*\*\*

Lydia Naverseth was a patient in the hospital again recently and feels much better now than she has for some time.

\*\*\*

Best wishes to Ruth Hammerstad who is coming along fine.

A speedy recovery to Ingrid Lagergren who is a patient in the Royal Alexandra Hospital, 6th floor. Visitors are welcome.

Ella Searl has not been feeling too well. She is taking treatments for rheumatism of the muscles surrounding the heart. Hope you feel better soon Ella.

\*\*\*

Irene Hovde has been a patient in the hospital recently.

\*\*\*

Among several thousand Miles for Millions Marchers were Sigurd and Selma Sorenson, Peter Hansen, Darlene Melsness and Beverley and Garth Travis. Sig completed the 25 miles and was sponsored at \$5.50 per mile by the Sons of Norway Lodge, Canada West Insurance Company, Alberta General Insurance Company, Mrs. Frances Block, Jack Connauton, Bruce Brodie, and Bahry's Glass Limited. Selma walked 21 miles and was sponsored at \$2.25 a mile by the Scandinavian Centre, Bob Sorenson and Sorenson Assurance. Peter was sponsored by the Sons of Norway Lodge and walked 25 miles. Darlene, Beverley and Garth also completed the 25 miles — with no blisters!!

\*\*\*

Congratulations are due to Edith Johnson who won the Sons of Norway, Region 13, draw on the trip to Norway. The Johnsons plan to delay the holiday to a later date, if possible.

\*\*\*

Cynthia Berg, daughter of Allan and Eva Berg, came second in the Speech Arts category in the Kiwanis Festival. Congratulations Cindy.

\*\*\*

Congratulations go to Warren Clark and Sonja McBride who placed third in the Federation of Community Leagues Talent Show finals. They entered with the Norwegian Folk Dance, the Reinlander.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the Sivertsen family on the birth of Michelle Leigh, 7 lbs. 10 oz. The proud parents are Gordon and June Sivertsen of Calgary. Uncles and aunts are Ken and Joan of Edmonton and Robert and Judy of Calgary. Last, but not least, is Ragna Sivertsen, the proud Grandmother. All are members of Solglyt Lodge.

\*\*\*

The Junior Lodge members, under the direction of Clara Lineham, presented a programme of Norwegian dancing, singing and a skit on April 21st at the Kingsway Legion Hall. They entertained for the handicapped who were transported there by wheelchair buses. Darlene Melsness was soloist, the Senior and Junior dancers performed

and a skit was presented by the Drama group. Del Melsness played the piano for a sing song after the programme. The audience enjoyed the entertainment very much.

\*\*\*

Hilda Ritland's Mother, Mrs. A. Blomberg, of the Good Samaritan Hospital, had a turn for the worse recently. Her 6 daughters visited her there, they are Mrs. Carol Perkins of Madison, Wisconsin; Mrs. Alice Eyre, Peace River; Mrs. Dorinda Miller, Bashaw; and Mrs. Alberta La Rose and Mrs. Agnes Bull of Edmonton.

\*\*\*

Selma Sorenson enjoyed Easter week visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Johnson at Chauvin, Alberta. Sharon Sorenson spent Easter week in Newfold, Minnesota. Father Sorenson stayed home for the week, hard at work.

\*\*\*

Several parties have been held for the Golden family who have left Edmonton to make their home in Victoria. A party was held for Sandra and Marvin at the Chris McNaughton home. Plaques were presented to them from the Senior dancers and the Drama group. The Junior dancers held a party for Connie and Vicki and presented them with dolls as a going away present. The Senior Goldens (Pat and Norma) were not left out, as a lovely party was held for them at the home of Cliff and Edith Johnson, with several lodge members and friends present.

The Drill team held their party for Norma on May 8. It was in the form of a surprise party with Norma supposedly needed to fill in for one of the missing members. It was quite a surprise to her when lunch and coffee was served and she was presented with a gift. We hope they will be very happy in their new home.

\*\*\*

Janet Louise Sivertsen, 6 years old, had a holiday with her Grandmother Ragna for a week. Janet's parents are Robert and Judy Sivertsen from Calgary.

\*\*\*

### SOLGLYT'S BOWLING CLUB NEWS

The Sons of Norway bowling group has been very busy lately reproducing future bowlers. We must congratulate Dave and Judy More on the birth of a baby girl in May. Dennis and Grace Cook also are to be congratulated on the birth of their daughter, Susan Mae. Congratulations are also in order for Roger and Louise Logan, (proud parents) and Henry and Ruth Logan (proud Grandparents). They would like to announce the birth of their daughter/grand-daughter on May 7. Carlyn Deanne weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was born at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Another bowler, Elva Veis has been a patient in the Royal Alexandra Hospital again, recently. This is the 3rd time in about 4 months. Speedy recovery, Elva.

30 Solglyt, Sons of Norway, bowlers travelled to Calgary last month to bowl against the Valhalla Bowling teams, in their annual bowl-off. Valhalla won again this year with an excess of 285 pins. Congratulations Calgary. The trophy was presented to the Valhalla President, Mr. Kolbjornsrude by Peter Hansen and Cliff Johnson. A dance was held in the Legion Hall followed by lunch. The Solglyt bowlers then met in Peter Hansen's

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If undelivered, return to:  
6012 - 101A Avenue

### EDITOR

Mrs. Shirley Thorvaldson  
6012 - 101A Avenue — Phone 466-1570

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Vera Nielsen  
10029 - 85 Avenue, Ph. 439-0506

### SECRETARY & PHOTOGRAPHER

Mrs. Verna Larson  
7820 - 148 St. Ph. 488-4607

### CORRESPONDENTS

Vasa Lodge Skandia:  
Mrs. Joan Petersson  
412 - 87 Avenue Ph. 469-0259

### Sons of Norway "Solglyt":

Mrs. Betty Travis  
10916 - 141 St. Ph. 455-2059

### Danish Society "Dania":

Mrs. Vera Nielsen  
10029 - 85 Ave. Ph. 439-0506

### Icelandic Society:

Mrs. H. M. Sumarladason  
10706 - 69 Ave. Ph. 434-2037

### Finnish Society:

Mrs. Anne Sahuri  
16112 - 104 Ave. Ph. 489-7515

room, at the Westgate Motor Hotel, for a social hour before retiring.

\*\*\*

The Bowling Banquet and Dance was held at the Scandinavian Centre, Nordic Room, on April 26. A fabulous smorgasbord (from the Riviera Motor Hotel) was served following a Social Hour. The trophies for the season were presented as follows:

1ST TEAM—MIDNIGHT SUNS.  
Hilda Ritland, Mary Gulbrandsen, Joan Sivertsen, Myrle Travis, Betty McKevitt.

2ND TEAM—FJORDS. — Andy Mjaatveit, Jan Gothe, Pat Golden, John Marko, Louise Logan.

LADIES HI AVERAGE — Louise Logan (200).

MEN'S HI AVERAGE — Peter Hansen (203).

LADIES HI SINGLE — Betty McKevitt (306).

MEN'S HI SINGLE — Leif Anderson (344).

LADIES HI TRIPLE — Doreen Melsness (767).

MEN'S HI TRIPLE — Peter Hansen (793).

LOW CHAMPS — Jan Gothe and Pat Golden.

A plaque was presented to Norman Neilson for attaining the high average for 3 consecutive years. A dance ended the evening, after which about 35 - 40 members went to the Cliff Johnson home to help Edith celebrate her winning the trip to Norway.



## ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

Dates to remember: Sunday afternoon, June 9th, the Icelandic Society's annual summer picnic in Circle 6, Victoria Park from 1 o'clock to 5. Everybody is invited to be there and join in the fun. Bring your own food, in picnic baskets. Coffee, tea, ice cream and soft drinks will be provided. Lawn chairs and good walking shoes will add to your comfort, so reserve the day and come, for a day spent with friends, with children involved in their races and games, in the balmy atmosphere of a riverside park is always a rewarding pastime. Circle the date on your calendar.

Also; Cemetery Day in Markerville has been set for June 22nd. As in the past, some are planning on motoring south for another rendezvous with the good citizens of that community. For many years they have met at the Tindastol Cemetery as a work-bee to tidy up the historical burial ground of many of the pioneer folk who opened up the district and settled the land. The day usually turns out to be a socially-oriented gathering, all contributing food towards a smorgasbord at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johannson, assisted by the ladies of the area, under the guiding hand of cemetery president, Joe Johannson. Those who have taken part in former occasions state that it offers goodly recompense for uniting efforts.

Hearty birthday greetings go out on June 15th to Mrs. Ingibjorg Alderdice of 9007 - 88th Ave., to Mr. Henry M. Sumarladason, on July 1st; and to Mr. G. O. Gislason, on July 15th. To these three honorary members of Nordurljos Chapter, good health and happiness!

Edmonton is favored in having the annual Kiwanis Musical Festival staged every spring, when thousands of participants in choirs, school choruses, instrumentalists, vocalists and speech artists crowd the spacious rooms of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium to display their skills before competent adjudicators. This gives a tremendous incentive to our young students for being included in the list of contenders is, in itself, a mark of excellence.

However, to be singled out as the best performer in each class adds a thrill to child, parent and teacher alike.

Such a glow came to the Don Shaw family this Easter time when little Miss Louise Shaw was declared first of fifty two performers in the 8 years and under piano solo, and her older sister, Dawn, with Shirley Miller came second in the duet for the 12 and under class, playing Gay Is The Rose, composed by our local Miss Violet Archer of the University Staff. Congratulations to these promising artists, and good wishes for continued success!

Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Ruth Florence and other members of the family of the late Mrs. Murdoch Angus Smith in the death of Mrs. Smith on April 21st, 1968. Mrs. Margaret Sigurbjorg Smith, of the Jubilee Lodge, and formerly from Selkirk, Man., was an honorary member of the Nordurljos Chapter, Icelandic Society of Edmonton. She had made her home with her daughter, Ruth, and Mr. Florence prior to residing in the McQueen Lodge. She leaves to mourn her loss a son and daughter in Toronto, a daughter in Vancouver, daughter, Ruth, and five grandchildren. Burial was in the Evergreen Gardens.

Miss Thora (Tota) Vigfusson, of Winnipeg, Man., was a visitor to Edmonton to renew family ties with the G. O. Gislason family members, and while in the city, she was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Don Cameron.

What sounds like an exciting holiday took place when Mr. Don Cameron motored with two carloads of friends from the Foresters' Rock Club southward to the garnet beds of Idaho recently. We understand these semi-precious stones are to be found in greater abundance there, and that to unearth them it is necessary to wash pailful of small rocks to search and find. This quest, when shared by mutual friends and enthusiasts brings its own reward.

On April 20th, Prof. and Mrs. Barney Stephansson gave much entertainment to a small, but appreciative audience by a showing of their Trinidad slides, in the Nordic Room of the Scandinavian Centre. The commentaries by Prof. Stephansson were as enjoyable as the colorful pictures of native life in that idyllic island. A dainty lunch, served by the ladies of Nordurljos followed, when many complimentary remarks were heard, expressing a desirability of more such pleasant gatherings. Thanks again, Barney and Ida!

The Don Shaw family motored to Unity, Sask., to visit at the home of Mrs. Shaw's relatives, Jack and Hall-dora Lowe, during the Victoria Day weekend.

The regular monthly meeting of the executive of Nordurljos met at the Sumarladason home to discuss plans for the annual picnic set for June 9th. Committees to handle games, races, lunch and prizes were appointed so please, Mr. Weatherman, be kind. In reviewing the Fjallkona ceremony, thanks were expressed to all who took part and gave support in this most colorful event. Discussion as to the entertainment of a visitor from Reykjavik, Iceland, in the person of the distinguished president of the Icelandic Patriotic Society, Mr. Sigurdur Sigurgeirson, and his wife, who will tour through many Icelandic centres in Canada and the U.S. in August. His three-day stop-over in Edmonton, and Markerville will be the reason for social gatherings as he wishes to meet as many Icelandic folk as is possible at that time. Some tentative plans are in the making, to be confirmed later on.

We are happy to report that the hospitalization of two of our popular ladies was brief and beneficial. Mrs. Pauline Mitchell, and Mrs. Mickey Shaw are both home and improved in health.

From time to time one receives invitations to visit our schools in the city to inspect the work of the pupils, and gain an awareness of the excellence of the instruction being given. Such an occasion occurred recently when your reporter joined in a four-some to go to the Provin-

cial School for the Deaf, to view the handicrafts accomplished by the senior girls under the direction of Mr. Walter Arason. As we entered the splendid building we became aware of the munificence of the Government of Alberta in providing thus showing genuine concern for those unfortunate children who are without a sense of hearing. The display of ceramics is housed in a well-lighted recess in the hall wall, on three shelves, each article adding its color and design to the over-all excellence. One realizes that through the earnest and patient guidance of the instructor, through signs, and chalkboard sketching, the creative talents of the handicapped found expression in bowls, jugs, ash-trays, vases, plaques, dishes, candle-holders, and small turtles. For ideal conversation pieces, the sculptured heads, with pony-tail, or other fortuitous features will give many a chuckle in the respective homes.

One came away, pondering on the turn of Fate, and the compensations which come when a dedicated instructor channels the energies of these little children in creative technical skill, with evident satisfaction and unbelievable success. Well done, Walter.

Mrs. Alex Mitchell travelled by train to Gimli, Man., to visit at Betel, Icelandic Home, and especially to pay respects to her aunt, Mrs. Sigridur Bjornson, eighty-three years of age, and in indifferent health. She also visited her father's brother, John Palsson, in Betel, who regaled her with news of the musical successes of his three grandchildren living in Brandon, Man. Those guests at the home with whom she spoke asked her to carry greetings to all Edmonton folk, who they regard with affection, and especially to Mrs. Campbell, for her visit with the tape of the Saga Singers. This proved a memorable gesture, deeply appreciated.

The ladies of the Icelandic Society held a meeting at the Valgardson home to establish a formal organization, and evaluate the contributions which can be made to the betterment of all connected with our club. The election of new officers resulted as follows: — President, Mrs. Freda Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Della Roland; Treasurer, Mrs. Pearl Valgardson; Phoning, Mrs. Ila Henrickson; Purchasing, Mrs. Mickey Shaw; The forthcoming visit of Mr. Sigurdur Sigurgeirson and wife from Iceland elicited a promise of assistance to Nordurljos in the entertaining of these distinguished visitors. A gift to the reforestation project steered by Mr. Richard Beck was made, and plans to make the Christmas Bazaar bigger and better were discussed. The next meeting will be in September, at the same place. Details later.

A warm tribute is offered to Mrs. Peggy Norgaard as she relinquishes her post as Editor-in-chief of this paper. Her courtesies during the past have been appreciated, and best wishes for health, and joy ahead are sincerely expressed.

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## BIOGRAPHY OF AN OLD TIMER

WANTED — DAY BOOKS, STORIES AND HISTORIES OF SCANDINAVIAN SETTLERS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Many readers have parents or grandparents with memories and stories of their early days in Canada and the States, when it took real courage to venture into the unknown. The Scandinavian Centre would like to collect as much of this information as possible, for our library and perhaps one day to publish in book form. This is the best time to start on the work, while we still have the old-timers with us. Write down details and dates wherever possible and send them to the editor, Scandinavian Centre News. Even if you have heard the same stories a hundred times, remember the next generation won't have the opportunity to hear these exploits first hand. Let us preserve this historical information while it is still remembered by those who made the history.

The following item will give you some idea of how an interesting story can be worked up from the details and highlights of one man's life.

### LIFE HISTORY OF OLE ALFSON

I, Ole Alfson was born in Norwad, the fifth day of May 1850. My parents were Alf and Ingeborg Thorson of Berunuten, Vinge Parish or Pastoral District, in upper Telemarken, Norway.

I was baptized the 22nd of July 1850 in the Vinge Church by A. E. Smith. Berunuten lies high on the hillside and is best fitted for cattle and lies 14 English miles from the nearest neighbor. When I was 2 years old my parents moved to the home place, namely, Haukeli, and became farmers there for several years. When I was five years old, my mother died, but I remember quite well.

Of the five children, I was the youngest. There were 3 boys and 2 girls. The four oldest passed away some years ago. They were very good to me and taught me to read my A,B,C's, and catechism. I remember well the first day I came from school. I read the first commandment by heart and old Jacob thought that was very good. Regarding school, they were rather limited in those days. I could write regarding many happenings during my youthful days but that would be of not much interest to my following relatives, so I better leave it be.

The second day of July I was confirmed by Ditlef Perr Smith, the minister at Vinge in the year 1868 at the age of 18 years. That year I left with my old Dad who was then 70 years old, for America. We left on the sailboat "Amelia" skipped by Captain Iverson. We left from Postgrund (Postrund) the 18th day of April. Over the North Sea we had good weather and favorable wind so we sailed full sail ahead. But on the Atlantic Ocean we had storms and a head wind mostly all the way. Three days after sailing a contagious disease broke out, namely, smallpox. There wasn't many days before about one-half of the passengers lay sick. This was some gruesome sickhouse. At first I was very seasick, then I got smallpox, but in a mild form. My 18th birthday was not a very happy one for me, being midway on the Atlantic Ocean, through sickness and storm. I saw nothing but crying and crying and thought if I ever arrived on land alive I would never

go to sea again. So passed one day after another. We finally arrived at the north end of the banks of Newfoundland. Then we came amongst large icebergs and a lot of drift ice so the ship was badly scraped on both sides, but we came through it luckily. Up the St. Lawrence River we sailed for six hours and lay still for six hours. The journey was very slow, but we finally arrived at an island outside of Quebec where we were quarantined. There we had to go ashore and wash and clean our clothes on account of the sickness.

A whole lot of immigrants were held back on the ship on account of the sickness and how they fared I have never heard. From Quebec we sailed up Canada on a small steamship through canals and lakes to Hamilton, Ont. From there by rail to La Crosse and from there again to Hastings, Minn. where we arrived one evening at sunset. Our trunks and large cases were set ashore. There we stood and wondered what we should do. To leave the trunks and cases we could hardly do. So we arrived at the conclusion that we place them in a square and spend the night there. We were six grown-ups and a small child, the baby was born while we were on the Atlantic Ocean. He is now a boiler inspector at Fergus Falls, Minn. Everything went pretty well as we had enough bedding and clothes and the weather was nice so we did not freeze. A good man came along dragging a big canvas from a sail boat which we spread over us. The next morning we boiled coffee and ate well of our very best.

We had heard that there was a Norwegian in town whom they called Petterson. This man we had to try and find. We wrote the name Petterson on a piece of paper and went up town and showed this slip of paper to whoever we met, but only shook their heads. At last we met a reliable man who pointed towards a house to which we went and there we found the man we sought. We let Petterson know what we wanted and he immediately got a man with a team of horses and a wagon who drove us to Farmington, Minn. which was about 20 miles away. Then we got another man to drive us from there up to the Norwegian Christian Settlement, Dakota County, where my oldest brother, Ferbjorn lived. He came over in the year 1861. Thus we arrived at our disclosed destination on the 25th day of June, after two months and 25 days after leaving our old home on April 1st.

The first year I was sickly on account of the change in climate. For four years I worked for farmers there in the north and off and on I got tired of working this way and thought how nice it would be to have a home of my own.

On the sixth day of February in 1873, I united in marriage with Kari Osmundson. She came over from Norway in 1861. She was at that time 6 years old. They were from Vinge, Norway and a relative of the poet A. O. Vinge. We were married by pastor N. A. Quamen. Our nearest neighbor was an ordained minister, and also registrar. A small wedding was held in the bride's home. After the noon-day meal was over the minister asked Mr. Thomas Lajord if he would

sing a song. He didn't have to be asked twice.

Yes, so here was a change of our lives at hand, where we started to think of a home of our own. We bought 77 acres of land, with a poor house on it, but also with a few acres of land broken. The rest we had to grub and break. It was a lot of hard work to begin and bush land. There we kept farming until the fall of 1881. We had heard of promising happenings from the north-west for several years and we came to the decision to move to Dakota Territory as it was called in those days. We had 4 work horses and 8 cattle, also machinery, some household goods along with some provisions. We packed this on a freight car at Farmington, Minn. and got a contract to ship from Farmington to Mayville, N. Dak. This was the summer they built the railway ther. So our freight car was the first to arrive there. Mrs. Alfson was the first lady to come this far on a passenger train. The railway was not quite finished over Goose River so we landed and unloaded on the southside of the river. We stopped here for two days and made ourselves ready for the journey westward to Sheyenne River, N. Dak. After two days of traveling we arrived late one afternoon at the Rollf Johnson home. The next day there was snow on the ground as this was the last days of October. It did not look to bright to come to a wild country with a wife and three small children, the youngest one only a year old. We then found out that there was one quarter of land on the west side of the river that was not taken. It was a part of that was timber, but we decided to settle there. The land was still not on the market. I then got two good men with me and we chopped some timber and hauled it together. We cut and hewed and erected a 12x14 house, approximately 8 feet high. For a roof we used some brush, then a little hay, and on top of that we put sod. We plastered the walls with clay. We put in two half windows and a door which finished the house. Then we built a stable of the same material. We moved into our house two weeks after we arrived at the Johnsons. The hay we used that winter we hauled for eight miles and it cost about eighty dollars. In the month of March I filed pre-emption. In the spring we had a flood and had to move out with everything we had to a neighbor who lived high on the hillside. The water was 3ft. deep in the house and the same in the stable. We stayed with this neighbor for three weeks before we could move back. On the 22nd of May 1882 we proved up our pre-emption in Valley City, N. Dak. Then on the 3rd day of June I filed homestead in the township of Pilot Mound, namely the north-west quarter of section 30 and moved there on the 5th day of July. We were among the first who took land that far out on the prairie so we saw no neighbors in any direction but in the late summer. One and then another came to settle.

In the fall of 1882 we met and talked how we could get a minister to hold services for us etc. Right soon we got to hear that pastor Granelid of Hatton, N. Dak. would come and hold services for us at



Fosten Gilderhus's place. After services a meeting was held and we formed the Valley Grove Congregation. This was the 22nd day of November in the year of 1882. For secretary we voted in S. J. Tande, for trustees, Elias Moen, Fosten Gilderhus and Ole Alfson. It was decided we should build a church of timber and it should stand in the valley on the Ole Fordis land. It soon proved itself that there would be more settlers out on the prairies so we had to change our church location. Then Ole Frankelen donated land for the church and cemetery. This church was built there and later moved to Kloten, N.Dak. Pastor Gronelid promised to come and hold services for us anyway, and he did. In the year 1884 we united with Sheyenne Congregation and sent a call for a minister. They then sent Rev. O. C. Gronwald. He served us three years, then quit preaching to become a farmer. More and more settlers came and it soon proved to us that it was altogether too far to go to Valley Groove for a place of service. So we called a meeting at T. O. Torgenson's place in July 1885. Nine families were on hand for this meeting. We agreed to form a self supporting congregation of our own and appointed Ole Lautvit as foreman, S. J. Tande as secretary and myself, Ole Alfson as trustee. We discussed and decided to call our new congregation, West Prairie. Ole Alfson for the church and cemetery gave two acres of land. This was very satisfactory. Then we agreed with Valley Groove and Sheyenne Valley to call a minister for both congregations. This was finally decided on at a later meeting. These three congregations bought 40 acres of land and built a house for a minister. This parsonage lies half way between West Prairie and Valley Groove. These congregations have worked very well together. The following ministers have served these three congregations, namely: O. C. Gronwald, Thos. H. Larson, Henry Eliason, K. M. Mjaames, John Fjelstad, H. O. Bach. Our minister at the present date is H. O. Bach. Most of the people that helped build West Prairie Congregation have either passed away or have moved away and other folks have arrived to take their place. It was in the year 1896 that West Prairie was built.

We had many long and stormy winters. We had a long road to town with many short days, so often we drove late at night and it happened that sometimes we drove all night. Most of the neighbors were very poor and had but little clothing so they suffered a lot. But now for the biggest part everything is good and the hardships are mostly forgotten. In the year of 1884 the railway arrived in Cooperstown, N.Dak. and we all thought this wonderful. For our own part, we had only 18 miles to market so we were well satisfied. There could be a lot of things I could write about regarding those days, but I am too poorly to do so. We finally got tired of farming so we rented the farm and moved into Binford, N.Dak. in the fall of 1904. Here we have made our home ever since.

We have been blessed with six children whom are all living outside of one boy who passed away at the age of 16 months.

The children are as follows:

## DANIA DOINGS



Sunday, June 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Set Hans Picnic for the whole family. Bring your picnic lunch. There will be races for the children, a bonfire, with a sing song after dark. There are lots of barbecues on the premises, if you should like to do some of your own barbecuing. There is also a concession booth where you can buy your hot dogs, etc. Come to enjoy yourself.

The Place is "Little Acres" which is situated 2½ miles north and ¼ mile west of Winterburn Store on Highway 16 west, look for signs along the way. Admission will be 50c.

\*\*\*

Last Membership Draw was won by C. Christophersen for \$30.00, not claimed. Next Draw will be \$35.00 at the Klondike Dance in July.

\*\*\*

## NEWS FROM THE DANISH CHURCH

### Ansgar Young People Group

More and more often we see this group of young people in activity. On Mother's Day they had invited the whole congregation to a lunch in the church-basement, and all who attended were full of praise of the arrangement. All the mothers were given a carnation and the youngest and the oldest mother got a box of chocolate. Same day we saw their gift to the church, a clock in the basement. A car-wash arranged by them was a success. In June they invited to a social for the new confirmants and their parents, for all last year's confirmants and whoever would like to come Monday, June 10 at 7:30 in the church. And on Father's Day, Sunday the 16 they invite the whole congregation again to a little party after the evening service in the church. Picnic for the Sunday School and the Congregation

It will be Sunday, June 30, at Otto Jensen's farm, 2 miles south of Ellesley on Hwy. 2, you turn right at sign to Heimtal. The farm is 2½ mile from the highway on your left. We meet out there at 2 p.m. Coffee will be served, but bring your own supper. We will have "Sankt Hans Baal" in the evening, even it is a week after St. Hans, but we wouldn't like to collide with Dania's Picnic the 23. Meetings in June

Wednesday the 5, at 8 p.m.

Ladies' Aid.

Monday the 10, at 7:30.

Confirmant feast.

Tuesday the 18 at 8 p.m.

Bible Study, Matt. 11.

Wednesday the 26 at 8 p.m.

Young Women's Club at Mrs. Nanna Knudsen, 4909-115 St.

Ingebor, who is married to Lewis Berg of Cooperstown Albert, married Alpha Thinglestad, Binford;

Henry, married Clara Johnson; Ruth, married to George Olstad and they live here with us;

Now we look back on our 40 years together, it seems a long time, but the years have passed quite rapidly and we have been richly blessed in both body and soul. So we must say that God has been very good to us and we must give

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cont'd. from page 1

"Get up and do something like good hard work, eat well, and sleep fast (at least three hours a night); that's enough sleep if you sleep fast."

Is Mr. Huseby planning another trip to Norway this summer? He wasn't sure if he was going or not. The family and friends were to hold open house to honor Mr. Huseby on his 90th birthday at Zion Church on March 10.

The Village of Holden and district wish him a very happy birthday and expect to interview him again in 10 years, when he'll be one hundred.

thanks for everything.

To close I will ask whoever reads this to please excuse and uneducated man of 73 years of age.

Ole Alfson

(Translated by George Olstad)

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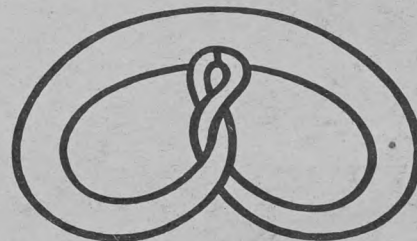
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## FINNISH SOCIETY



Many thanks for flowers, cards and visitors I received while in hospital recently.

—Leslie Rama.

Many thanks for flowers also thanks to all who remembered me in any way during my recent illness.

—Aili Louste.

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Wilfred Cumming on the birth of their son Wilfred Ian on May 8th, 1968 weighing 9 lbs. 11 oz.

Thanks to all ladies for the lovely gifts for the baby at the recent baby shower. Special thanks to hostesses Anja Leino and Gisela Salo. —Sinikka Cumming.

The annual Juhannuskokko will be held on June 22nd at Lac La Nonne, Willowbend Beach. Bring your fishing gear along, the biggest fish will win a price.

A hearty thank you to all the ladies who cooked and brought food to the Vappu dance. Also thanks to ladies who helped in the kitchen. The night was very successful, thanks to you.

—On behalf of Ladies Committee, Sirkka Ristola.

Happy Fathers day to all fathers.

Congratulations are in order to Mr. Onni Virtanen who won the consolation prize of two beautifully bound books in the membership drive for Suomi Suera in Helsinki.

**VIKINGS EYE OPENER** Mention the Vikings and immediately interest stirs. Put on an exhibit of Viking arts and crafts, well laced with photographs of historical sites and models of objects that could not be transported either because of size (such as the Oseberg ship) or because of fragility (such as the Jelling chalice), and you have an attraction of great popular appeal.

The Viking Exhibition premiered in Regina's Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery the last three weeks of April and moves to Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery May 10-31, then on to Vancouver Art Gallery from June 14-July 5. Norah McCullough, the National Gallery's liaison officer for western Canada, visited museums and historical sites in Scandinavia and Iceland to gather material for the exhibit. Most of the objects were recovered from Viking burial grounds such as that at Oseberg.

The archaeological digs at Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., which have been generally accepted as a proof that Vikings settled in Canada around 1000 AD, have greatly increased Canadian interest in Viking lore.

The exhibit is divided by country: Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. For those who associate Vikings exclusively with ships and battle-axes, the high degree of development, of their crafts is an eye-opener. They were fond of gold, silver and bronze jewelry, particularly silver, which they worked with considerable finesse. And weaving was also one of their perfected arts as witnessed by the Oseberg tapestry, represented in the exhibition by a watercolor copy. Its lively design, showing men and women on foot, in carts and on horseback, supports the historical image of the Vikings as a restless people.

The exhibit will be seen in about 12 galleries, coast to coast.

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Sunday June 16th 7:30 p.m. English Service. After the service coffee in the basement.

Sunday June 23rd 10:00 a.m. English Service.

Sunday June 30th 10:00 a.m. Danish Service.

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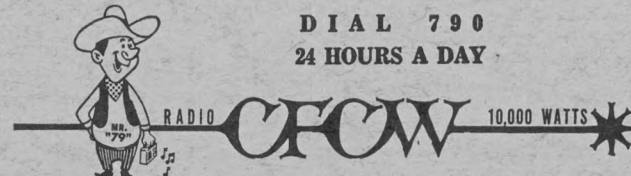
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